

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 6, 9 – 12, 14 – 18, and 20 – 22 are pending. Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to recite “consisting essentially of” as related to the polymers in the curable compositions. New claims 23 and 24 have been added. Support for claims 23 and 24 can be found at least in the first paragraph on page 85. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 – 6, 9 – 12, 14 – 18, and 20 – 24 are pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1 – 6, 9 – 12, 14 – 18, and 20 – 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 01/90244, as interpreted by the English language equivalent U.S. Patent No. 6,831,130 (“Fujita”). Applicants traverse the rejections. However, to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 20 to recite “consisting essentially of” as related to the polymers in the curable compositions.

First, Fujita does not teach or suggest all claim limitations. Specifically, Fujita does not teach or suggest a metal soap in an amount of 0.025 to 5 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of component (A), as recited in the claims. Fujita discloses that metal soaps can be used as anitsagging agent (col. 50, ll. 61-64). Example 6 of Fujita discloses a polyamide wax antisagging agent in the amount of 2 parts per 30 parts of vinyl polymer, which equals to 6.7 parts per 100 parts of vinyl polymer and which is outside the range of 0.025 to 5 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of component (A), as recited in the claims. Additionally, Fujita does not provide any motivation or guidance as to why and how the amount of the antisagging agent or the ratio of the antisagging agent to the vinyl polymer, should be modified. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art to modify the composition of Fujita to come up with the claimed invention.

Further, Applicants respectfully point out that Fujita discloses a curable composition comprising, among other things, a crosslinkable functional group-containing polyether polymer AND a crosslinkable functional group-containing polyvinyl polymer. See col. 1, ll. 6 – 11. The composition and method instantly claimed do not involve a polyether polymer. Moreover, the addition of a crosslinkable functional group-containing polyether polymer into the polymeric components of the composition of claim 1 or the method of claim 20 would materially affect the

basic and novel characteristics of the claimed invention. See Fujita, col. 3, ll 1 – 54. Because polyether polymer is a necessary component of the composition disclosed in Fujita, Fujita does not teach or suggest the composition or method instantly claimed. One of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modified Fujita to reach the present invention.

For at least the reasons stated above, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The claims are believed to be allowable.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

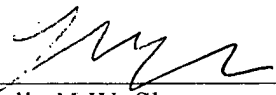
In the event that the filing of this paper is deemed not timely, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Office is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to deposit account 11-0600 of Kenyon & Kenyon LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

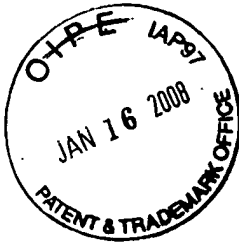
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Dated: January 16, 2008

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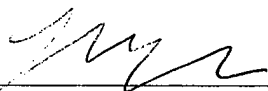
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